

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CANBER 03931 240954Z

12

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 EA-11 IO-14 ISO-00 AGR-20 SWF-02 COME-00

AID-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00 FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01

CIEP-02 SP-03 STR-08 TRSE-00 LAB-06 SIL-01 SAM-01

OMB-01 PA-04 PRS-01 USIA-15 DRC-01 NEA-14 OPIC-12

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R 240448Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3483

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION OECD PARIS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, AS

SUBJ: INTERNATIONAL MEAT TRADE PROBLEMS

REF: (A) CANBERRA 3901; (B) CANBERRA 3900; (C) STATE 133803

1. DEPRIMIN AND MINISTER FOR OVERSEAS TRADE CAIRNS LATE JUNE 21 ANNOUNCED DEPARTURE OF GOA DELEGATION TO CONSULT WITH EEC ON PROBLEMS OF MEAT TRADE. CAIRNS' STATEMENT WENT ON TO COMMENT ON UNDERLYING PROBLEMS AND EMPHASIZED ROLE WHICH GOA HOPES USG WILL PLAY IN FINDING SOLUTIONS.

2. TEXT OF CAIRNS STATEMENT FOLLOWS (UNNECESSARY WORDS OMITTED):

QUOTE AUSTRALIA HAS TAKEN A NUMBER OF STEPS IN ENDEAVOR TO FIND SOLUTIONS TO DIFFICULTIES PRESENTLY CONFRONTING WORLD TRADE
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PAGE 02 CANBER 03931 240954Z

IN MEAT.

DR. CAIRNS SAID THIS TODAY IN ANNOUNCING THAT A DELEGATION LED BY DR. S.F. HARRIS, DEPUTY SECRETARY, DEPARTMENT OF OVERSEAS TRADE AND COMPRISING COL. M.H. MCARTHUR, O.B.E., CHAIRMAN OF MEAT BOARD, MR. I. WRIGHT, DEPUTY CHAIRMAN AND MR. J.G. JONES, EXPORTER MEMBER OF THE MEAT BOARD AND MEAT INDUSTRY REPRESENTATIVE, WOULD SHORTLY LEAVE AUSTRALIA FOR DISCUSSIONS WITH EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMISSION IN BRUSSELS ON MEASURES RECENTLY INTRODUCED BY COMMUNITY WHICH WERE HAVING SERIOUS EFFECT ON AUSTRALIA'S MEAT TRADE WITH EUROPE.

DR. CAIRNS WENT ON TO SAY THAT HIGH LEVEL TALKS HAD ALSO BEEN SOUGHT WITH JAPANESE GOVERNMENT ON MEASURES JAPAN RECENTLY INTRODUCED TO SUSPEND IMPORTS OF BEEF AND VEAL AND HE HOPED THESE CONSULTATIONS WOULD TAKE PLACE SHORTLY.

DR. CAIRNS WENT ON TO EXPLAIN AUSTRALIA PRESENTLY IN PROCESS OF DEVELOPING PROPOSALS FOR MULTILATERAL DISCUSSIONS ON ORDERLY MARKETING IN INTERNATIONAL MEAT TRADE AND WOULD BE EXPLORING THESE IDEAS IN THE NEAR FUTURE WITH COUNTRIES WITH A PRINCIPAL INTEREST IN MEAT PRODUCTION AND TRADE. DR. CAIRNS SAID THAT IT WAS IN INTERESTS OF BOTH CONSUMERS AND PRODUCERS THAT SOME WAY BE FOUND TO STABILIZE PRICES AT REASONABLE LEVELS THEREBY ENSURING CONTINUING PLACE FOR MEAT IN CONSUMERS DIETS. AS REGARDS DEVELOPMENTS IN U.S. MARKET DR. CAIRNS SAID HE WAS CONSCIOUS THAT PROBLEMS IN U.S. LIVESTOCK INDUSTRY WERE OF REAL CONCERN AS INDEED IMPORTANT PROBLEMS WERE EMERGING IN AUSTRALIAN INDUSTRY. INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO HIM, HOWEVER, MADE IT CLEAR THAT IMPORTS OF BEEF INTO U.S. MARKET WERE NOT A SIGNIFICANT FACTOR IN DEPRESSING U.S. MARKET. IN PARTICULAR, HE NOTED IT HAD BEEN SUGGESTED THAT AUSTRALIA WAS SELLING INCREASING QUANTITIES OF BEEF AND VEAL IN U.S. MARKET, IN SITUATION WHERE THE E.E.C. AND JAPANESE MARKETS HAD IN EFFECT BEEN CLOSED TO US.

DR. CAIRNS SAID THAT STATEMENTS TO THIS EFFECT HARDLY LINED UP WITH FACTS. AUSTRALIAN EXPORTS OF BEEF TO U.S. MARKET THIS YEAR ALREADY DOWN OVER 22 PERCENT OR SOME 23,500 TONS COMPARED WITH SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR AND HE NOTED THAT INDUSTRY SPOKESMAN HAD ALREADY INDICATED THAT IN VIEW OF OVERALL MARKET SITUATION THEY EXPECTED AUSTRALIAN EXPORTS TO THE U.S. WOULD BE DOWN SOME 50,000 LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 CANBER 03931 240954Z

TONS OR MORE ON LAST YEAR. HE WELCOMED FACT THAT A SENIOR U.S. OFFICIAL WOULD BE ARRIVING SHORTLY IN AUSTRALIA ON A FACT FINDING MISSION.

DR. CAIRNS SAID THAT IT WAS ESSENTIAL THAT WHEN PROBLEMS EMERGED IN INTERNATIONAL TRADE, THEY SHOULD BE DEALT WITH AS A MULTI-LATERAL CO-OPERATIVE EFFORT. THIS WAS RESPONSIBLE APPROACH WHICH WOULD AVOID SITUATION IN WHICH INDIVIDUAL COUNTRIES SOUGHT TO

EXPORT DOMESTIC PROBLEMS OVERSEAS.

DR. CAIRNS SAID THAT U.S. WAS LOOKED AT TO PROVIDE LEADERSHIP IN SEEKING INTERNATIONAL SOLUTIONS TO PROBLEMS OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE WHICH AVOID EXPORT OF DOMESTIC PROBLEMS IN ANY COUNTRY AT EXPENSE OF OTHERS. WE WOULD HOPE THAT U.S. WOULD CONTINUE TO ACT RESPONSIBLY IN THIS RESPECT AS AUSTRALIA DID LAST YEAR WHEN, DESPITE DOMESTIC DIFFICULTIES, IT MAINTAINED UNHINDERED ITS EXPORTS OF FOODSTUFFS, PARTICULARLY BEEF, THEN IN SHORT SUPPLY. END QUOTE.

3. AS INDICATED PARA 8 REF (B) GOA ANXIOUS TO HAVE EARLY U.S. REACTION RE LINE OF APPROACH SUGGESTED IN JUNE 21 LETTER FROM DEPARTMENT OVERSEAS TRADE TO EMBASSY (REFTELS A AND B). EMBASSY BELIEVES EARLY REACTION, EVEN ON PRELIMINARY BASIS, WOULD BE DESIRABLE. AS DEPARTMENT KNOWS, INTERESTED GOA DEPARTMENTS ARE ARRANGING MEETINGS JUNE 25 AND 26 WITH DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY BELL TO DISCUSS DETAILED MEAT PRODUCTION AND TRADE OUTLOOK PER REF (C). WHILE THIS IS SINGLE FACET OF OVERALL SUBJECT DEPARTMENT OVERSEAS TRADE JUNE 21 LETTER, ANY PRELIMINARY REACTIONS WE CAN GIVE GOA MIGHT BE HELPFUL AT THAT TIME.
GREEN

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